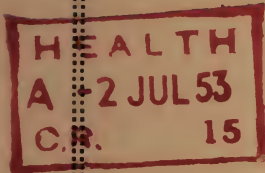


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BOLSOVER

(DERBYSHIRE)



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITIONS of the URBAN
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

FOR THE YEAR

1952

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**HEALTH AND SANITARY
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DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER**

FOR THE YEAR

1952

BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1952)

Alderman T. Colledge (Chairman);
Councillor J. W. Bluff. Councillor W. B. Revill, J.P.
Councillor Mrs J. Colledge. Councillor J. W. Savage.
Councillor F. Cross. Councillor M. W. Simpson, B.E.M.
Councillor G. Fisher. Councillor J. Spray.
Councillor S. T. Fisher. Councillor Miss E. M. Tranter, B.A.
Councillor S. Jennings.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1952

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Dale Close, 100 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield
(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER (part time):

Dr J. B. McKay, M.B., Ch.B:

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Tel. No. Bolsover 255 and 408
(Council Offices).

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bolsover Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your district. On the whole the year has been a healthy one, the number of notifications of infectious diseases being low.

The housing situation continues to improve and year by year the number of people living in overcrowded conditions and in rooms, becomes less.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and support, and also the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close",
100 Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,526
Population (census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,811
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,870
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,117
Rateable Value, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	£58,923
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	£201-19-5

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. The general standard of social condition shows little change from previous years.

There is practically no unemployment, and the standard of living has definitely improved during the last few years.

SCABIES.

20 cases (9 adults and 11 children) were treated at the Poolsbrook Treatment Centre.

VERMINOUS HEADS.

Despite the shortage of Health Visitors not one child had to be sent to the Centre for treatment. Most mothers are anxious to co-operate and only the worst cases are sent to Poolsbrook.

NUTRITION.

In the North Midland Region the number of toddlers taking Cod Liver Oil declined from 28.1% to 27.3% in 1951. The sale of Orange Juice increased slightly from 27.7% to 28.7% but even so these figures are disappointing. For the whole of England and Wales the numbers are only 32.7% and 31.3% respectively.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births.—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	185	92	93	} Birth-rate per 1,000 of population 17.5 (crude)
Illegitimate	6	3	3	
Corrected birth rate 18.0.				

Still Births	7	5	2	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 35.0.

DEATHS

	Total	Males	Females	
	90	53	37	} Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 8.0 (crude).

Death rate corrected by comparability factor 9.4.

There have not been any deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

The improvement in the nutrition of expectant mothers undoubtedly lowers the incidence of still births, which is highest in the first child.

Five per cent of all births are premature. It is found that these births are more frequent if the mother works during the last five months of pregnancy, this is especially so with older women.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	47.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	32.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	50.0

In a survey of 20,000 infants at Toronto in Canada it was found that 37.4% of the breast fed had an illness during the first nine months of life, while 63.6% of artificially fed had been ill during the same period. There is no doubt that breast milk is the ideal diet for babies.

DEATHS FROM:—

Messes (all ages)	... ..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Heart Disease and Circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The Cancer death rate for England and Wales has somewhat increased, but this is to be expected in a population with so many elderly people in it.

ROAD ACCIDENTS.

According to the Ministry of Transport's analysis taken in 1952, 14 people were killed on the roads every day and 580 injured. The most common causes attributed were

1. Misjudgement of speed.
2. Turning right without due care.
3. Inattention.
4. Excessive speed.

The most surprising conclusion in the analysis is the relatively small part played by the familiar villains—drink and bad roads.

In the year covered by this analysis there were 178,409 accidents; of these 16,000 were due to bad weather, bad roads and animals loose on the roads, 16,000 due to skidding or illness and 1,000 due to mechanical failures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1952

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.						Rate per 1,000 Births.
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	
England and Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3	—	—	—	—	0.04	27.6
160 County Boroughs and great Towns, including London	16.9	0.43	12.1	—	—	—	—	0.04	31.2
160 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Population 25,000—50,000	15.5	0.36	11.2	—	—	—	—	0.04	25.8
London	17.6	0.34	12.6	—	—	—	—	0.05	23.8
Bolsover U.D.	18.0	0.60	9.4	—	—	—	—	0.09	47.0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows:—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
C. diphtheriæ	—	13	13
Vincent's Angina Organisms	—	10	10
Hæmolytic Streptococci	1	14	15
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	—	—	—
*Water	—	16	16
*Ice Cream, Methylene Blue Test	—	18	18

MILK

Methylene Blue	—	—	—
*Phosphatase Test	—	2	2
*Turbidity Test	—	—	—
Tubercle Bacilli, Biological Test	1	65	63
Clinical Specimens	—	—	—
Totals	2	133	140

*Positive—Unsatisfactory.

Negative—Satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES IN THE AREA

When the National Health Act came into force the ambulance service was taken over by the County Council, Chesterfield is now the central depot. (Telephone No. 4141).

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL CLINICS

All these clinics are under the control of the County Council. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every week on a Wednesday afternoon in Bolsover.

A School Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments is held fortnightly on Saturday in the same place.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

This is held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, on Tuesday and Friday, from 10 to 12-30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

VENEREAL CLINICS

Chesterfield Royal Hospital—

Males— Friday, 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.
Tuesday, 5 to 6-45 p.m.

Females— Tuesday, 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.
Friday, 5 to 6-30 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

This is supplied by the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board and is satisfactory in quality. All the 3117 houses in the district are supplied direct from the town's mains.

The water is chlorinated before use and 0.15 parts per million of chlorine is added. The Chlorinating plant is installed at the Hillstown water tower. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

The following report on the supply has been kindly sent by Mr Alan Boothman, the Water Engineer and Manager of the Board:—

"There have not been any additions or extensions to the Board's (Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board), Works within the Bolsover U.D. apart from normal extensions of mains to supply new housing areas.

Protection work has been done at the Bolsover Moor Water Softening House to reduce the effects of mining subsidence.

About the turn of the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved a starting date for the erection of a small automatically operated Water Softening Plant at Hillstown which it is hoped will be completed this year.

It will enable the Water Board to supply water within the Bolsover U.D. area at approximately the same hardness (150 parts per million) as the water treated at Bolsover Moor and sent forward to Chesterfield.

The Carr Vale Pumping and Filter House was rebuilt and the source generally tidied up".

The following is a bacteriological analysis:—

Temperature on arrival 14°C

No. of Colonies per ml. developing
on Agar in:—

3 days at 22°C. 0

48 hours at 37°C. 0

B. Coli Test (MacConkey's Bile Salt Lactose Broth)

Probable number of coliform organisms
per 100 ml. 0

Free Chlorine parts per million none

Remarks—All satisfactory.

CLOSET CONVERSIONS

Since the completion of the disposal works at Whaley Village, 7 pail closet and 1 privy midden in the village have been converted into water-closets, and 1 pail closet in Castle Lane was also converted into a water closet, making a total of 9 conversions.

By the completion of the Whaley Village works the sanitation of this village and the condition of the stream below have been greatly improved.

There are 3117 houses in the district and apart from the number outlined below all are on the water carriage system.

Pail closets and Elsan Closets 69

Privies 8

Cesspools 30

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year the pumps were installed at Carr Vale Works and the sewage from this area is now pumped to the main Bolsover Works.

A small sewage works at Whaley Village was also completed and the nuisance and danger to health arising from 12 houses draining to cesspools causing them to overflow direct into the stream has at last been abated.

Complaints have been received by the Health Department of a nuisance arising in Moor Lane due to flooding by sewage

of houses and bungalows, and their gardens, situated on the south side of the lane; these houses lying lower than those built on the opposite side of the road. The main post-war housing development of the Council has been carried out in the Moor Lane area and the main sewer from the new estate joins the 9" sewer in Moor Lane at the junction with Moorfield Avenue. As all the houses are on the combined system of drainage, the sewer along Moor Lane becomes overloaded after moderate rainfall, sometimes flooding the carriageway for a distance of approximately 300 yards and in certain instances penetrating under the floors of the more low lying houses and flooding the gardens with faecal matter.

In my opinion the nuisance is a very serious one and as it is proposed to commence next year further mining of coal in this area a very dangerous situation may arise unless something is done to deal with the extra sewage.

The Council are giving this matter much attention and have considered a scheme for redraining the whole of the Moor Lane area to a new disposal works. The subsidence which will follow the mining of coal from under this part of the district could very seriously affect the drainage of the whole Moor Lane area, and it is most important that steps be taken to prevent any danger to public health.

Swabs suspended in the 9" sewer at the junction with Moorfield Avenue have been sent for bacterial examination for typhoid but, fortunately, all the tests so far taken have been negative.

HOUSING

During the year 96 houses were completed, 89 by the local authority and 7 by private enterprise. As already stated in the preface the housing situation is improving and the number of persons living under overcrowded conditions, and in rooms is becoming less, although there is still a long way to go before the back of the problem is broken.

The plight of some of the unfortunate people who are compelled to live in substandard houses is tragic, and it is desirable that a modified slum clearance may be started as soon as fresh houses are available.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the district, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

1—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	12	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	63	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec- 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises.)	5	12	2
Total	32	87	5

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred.	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences.				
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
	5	5	nil	nil

3—Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Lace, lace curtains and nets	3	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

An account of the supervision of milk, meat and other foods will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

URGENT SANITARY REQUIREMENTS

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The closing and demolition of unfit houses.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No person was removed compulsory to hospital under Section 47 of this Act.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1952

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.													Total cases rem'd to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At Ages—years														
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up		
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..
Scarlet Fever	33	..	..	..	1	4	17	8	2	1	..	..	..	20	..
Malaria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	7	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	21	1	2	4	3	2	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	36	4	2	5	11	2	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	107	6	4	9	15	8	41	8	3	5	4	2	2	22	..

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA

No notifications of this disease were received.

Every effort is made for children to be immunised. School children are having injections by the County School doctors, and infants by either their own doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinics. In all, 159 children were immunised, 52 school children and 107 infants. In addition a large number of booster doses were carried out on school children.

SCARLET FEVER

33 cases were notified, the majority being school children. The disease was of a mild type. 20 were removed to hospital.

POLIOMYELITIS

One paralytic case was reported at the end of the year. The patient was a boy of six years and he was removed to hospital. The source of infection was not discovered.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

One notification was received. It was a girl of 7 months. She was removed to hospital.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

21 cases of Measles and 33 of Whooping Cough were notified. There were no deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year:—

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
16 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	3	1	1	...	...	...	...

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING
SUPERINTENDENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1952.

For the second successive year there was a 50% increase in the number of houses built by the local authority for letting to tenants, and the rehousing of families living in rooms proceeded at a greater pace than in any previous year. There still remains a considerable number of young married couples, with small children, living in rooms, often under unhappy and overcrowded conditions, and the building of new houses continues to be one of the most pressing responsibilities of the Council.

The old and insanitary houses in the district continue to be occupied but I confidently hope that an orderly clearance of many of these worn out dwellings will be commenced within the next twelve or eighteen months.

The report contains a plea for the improvement or modernisation of the better type middle-aged houses, providing hot water, bathroom, internal water closet and other amenities. These houses must of necessity remain in occupation for very many years and the provision of modern services would be welcomed by the tenants and would improve the general standard of housing throughout the district. The solving of our national housing problem cannot be achieved by the building of new houses alone and increased attention ought to be paid to making our older houses more comfortable.

A welcome trend during the year was the reduction in the selling price of older houses, but unfortunately the cost of building new houses showed no similar tendency. It is of vital importance to the health and wellbeing of the people in this country that building costs should be kept as low as possible and that the working man should be able to afford to live in a modern, well serviced house.

During 1952 the Whaley Village sewerage scheme was completed and obsolete closets at those houses served by the new sewer and disposal works were replaced by water closets. It was pleasing to see the closing of the old cesspools in the village as they had been a most frequent source of trouble.

The report outlines the increased attention given to rodent control measures during 1952 and the more satisfactory results achieved by using a new rodenticide.

The new cesspool emptying equipment brought into use in July 1951 continued to operate most efficiently and provided much pleasanter working conditions for the men undertaking this duty.

I should like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the help and encouragement that I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. I am also greatly indebted to my Colleagues in the other departments for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover.
April, 1953.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Tables showing inspections, etc., undertaken during the year, 1952.

Inspections of houses for nuisances and defects ...	675
Revisits to houses	691
Visits re Water Supply	14
Visits to Infectious Disease cases	62
Verminous Premises	8
Milk shops	120
Bakehouses	12
Fried Fish Shops	30
Other Food Preparing Premises	75
Food Shops	180
Market Stalls	113
Ice Cream Premises	88
Inns and other Public Buildings	16
Factories	87
Knackers Yard	41
Schools	6
Controlled Refuse Tips	89
Colliery Spoil Banks	6
Moveable Dwellings	76
re keeping of Animals	17
Shops Acts	73
Petroleum Licensing	38
Rodent Control measures	1027
Drainage work	268
to Public Baths	8
Number of miscellaneous visits	12
Interviews with owners and contractors etc, ...	259
	4091

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT DEFECTS

The following statement shows the defects found and remedied, other than those at Council owned houses:—

Defects in connection with:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs	84	71
Chimney Stacks	19	18
Eaves Gutters	74	71
Rain Water Pipes	39	34
Pointing and brickwork of walls	56	50
Yard Paving	17	12
Waste Pipes	22	20
Wall Plaster	94	87
Ceiling Plaster	63	58
Windows and sash cords	29	27
Doors	8	6
Floors	46	40
Staircases	3	3
Cooking Ranges	43	40
Firegrates	19	16
Sinks	31	27
Washing Coppers	34	30
Rising and Penetrating dampness	74	69
Coal Stores	7	6
Verminous Premises	2	2
Dirty Houses	3	3
Accumulations	3	2
Drains	78	78
Inspection Chambers... ..	12	12
Closet Pedestals	34	32
Closet Flushing Cisterns	46	42
Closet Structures	12	10
Closet Pails	6	6
Urinals	1	1
Dilapidated Dustbins	149	140
Choked Drains... ..	223	223
... ..	1331	1236

In connection with the foregoing defects 313 informal notices and 58 statutory notices were served on owners or occupiers.

Of the statutory notices served, 16 required the abatement of nuisances at dwelling houses, 35 called for the provision of new dustbins, 6 dealt with defective closets and 1 was served under Section 83 of the Public Health Act in respect of a dirty house.

During 1952 no legal proceedings were taken in respect of defects at dwelling houses, in two cases the Council authorised court action but the nuisances were quickly abated; in one case just a few days before the hearing.

There was a noticeable increase in the number of statutory notices served, especially with regard to replacement of dilapidated dustbins. No person appealed against a notice requiring the provision of a dustbin, but four bins were supplied in default of legal notice.

HOUSING

It is pleasing to be able to report, for the second successive year, a 50% increase in the number of houses built by the local authority for letting to tenants. During 1952 93 houses were completed, 89 by the local authority and 7 by private individuals. Figures for previous years were:—

1951 60 Council Houses. 8 Private Houses.

1950 42 Council Houses. 4 Private Houses.

The rate of erection of Council Houses during 1952 was easily the highest achieved so far and the rehousing of badly housed families, mostly subtenants, was possible on a larger scale than in previous years.

The end of 1952 saw the virtual completion of the Moor Lane Housing Estate and negotiations were undertaken during the year for the acquisition of land to develop the proposed Castle Estate. These negotiations, necessitating compulsory purchase, extended over a long period and there will thus be a lapse of time between final completion of the Moor Lane Estate and the letting of the first of the new houses on the Castle Estate.

The development of the Castle Estate allows for the erection of 254 houses by the Coal Industry Housing Association in addition to the building of 182 houses by the Council. This development will be undertaken jointly and on a larger scale than has hitherto been possible in Bolsover; it is hoped that

the eventual rate of completion will be far higher than anything previously achieved.

Reports for recent years have emphasised the melancholy plight of families living in old and worn out houses and sharing accommodation as subtenants. The increased number of houses built during 1952 cast a ray of light on this dismal picture and brought fresh hope to many families, especially to those living in rooms. Practically all new houses erected were let to subtenants and very little progress was made with the rehousing of families living in old and insanitary houses.

The policy of keeping old houses in occupation for as long as possible has enabled steady progress to be made in rehousing overcrowded and subtenant families, but I have long held the view that many of the families living in unfit dwellings reside under worse conditions than many of the subtenants in modern houses.

During 1952 a survey was carried out of the most insanitary dwellings in the district and the houses were classified in an order of priority for clearance. These worn out houses have long passed their useful life and are now in advanced stages of disrepair; they possess few, if any, of the amenities and conveniences which are essential to a decent and healthy life and their continued occupation must have a deleterious effect on the health and happiness of the unfortunate families who are compelled to reside in them.

I entertain the hope that orderly clearance of many of these insanitary houses may be commenced in the not too distant future when the Castle Estate houses become available. Most of the old houses are in the middle of the town and a programme of clearance would allow a certain amount of planned redevelopment in the town centre to be undertaken.

Every effort is still being made to keep these dwellings reasonably weatherproof and as comfortable as possible, but whenever a tenant is rehoused under the normal letting programme, the opportunity is taken to deal with the house under the provision of Section 11 or 12 of the Housing Act of 1936. Three such cases were dealt with in 1952. Willow Farm, Woodhouse Lane, Bolsover was the subject of a Demolition Order and undertakings not to let were accepted in respect of 27 and 29 High Street, Bolsover. An official representation in respect of a further house, 11 Cotton Street, Bolsover, was

submitted, but action in respect of this house did not take place until early 1953.

No. 2 Castle Lane, Bolsover which was the subject of an undertaking during 1951 was thoroughly repaired and modernised and the undertaking was cancelled in May, 1952. The repair and modernisation of another house, No. 71 High Street, Bolsover was commenced during 1952 but the work had not been completed by the end of the year and the undertaking remained in force.

A considerable volume of repair work to dwelling houses was undertaken during the year but it was again noticeable that many owners limited maintenance work to the carrying out of absolutely essential repairs. It is most vital in the national interests that our middle aged houses should not be allowed to fall into disrepair prematurely, and it is most desirable, indeed essential, that many of the better type houses be modernised. With the best possible progress in the building of new houses, most of the families in this district, and indeed throughout the country, must for many years continue to occupy houses which were built 30, 40, 50 or more years ago and which, though they may be soundly constructed and in good general repair, lack the amenities and conveniences of a modern house.

The Housing Act of 1949 contained certain far sighted provisions relating to grant aided improvement of middle aged houses, but unfortunately this Act has not captured the public imagination as one would have wished. It was born at a time of strict control over civil building and its success has not been helped by the controversial rent restriction question coupled with the high cost of building; indeed it has been described as "stillborn" and "premature".

Many owners of property maintain they are no longer in a position to provide the capital required for improvement of their houses and there is a need to clarify the rent restriction legislation. The owner who maintains his property in good general repair should not be prevented from performing this essential duty by ever increasing building costs without any compensating increase in rents; but the owner who has allowed his property to fall into disrepair by reason of inadequate maintenance deserves no sympathy and should receive no benefit until his houses have been adequately repaired.

I am convinced that the improvement of many of our mid-

the aged houses will eventually form a vital part of the housing programme of this country. The provision of adequate hot water supply, bathroom, and internal water closet in many of the houses in this district would be comparatively simple and I am certain that the tenants of such houses would willingly pay an increased rent for these additional home comforts.

Much remains to be done before we reach the ultimate goal of a decent and healthy house for every family, but the three essentials of an orderly housing programme which should be vigorously pursued are:—

- (1) The continued building of new houses.
- (2) The improvement or modernisation of those houses capable of being brought up to the accepted standard, and
- (3) The clearance of old and unfit houses.

CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During 1952 there was again an increase in the number of caravans used for human habitation.

A special feature of the year was the decision of the Council to provide a properly serviced municipal site for caravans. A privately owned site containing six caravans and not provided with satisfactory sanitary arrangements was situated on a part of the proposed Castle Estate housing site, and the Council desired to provide a suitable alternative site for these caravan dwellers and to cater for the needs of certain other caravan owners living on individual and unserviced sites. Several meetings were held with the owners and occupiers of caravans and they were kept fully informed of the Council's plans. It was eventually decided to develop a site on a completed and soiled down portion of the Limekiln Fields refuse tip, providing a water closet for each caravan, washing facilities and other essential services.

The plans for this municipal site were formulated towards the end of the year and no actual development took place in 1952.

It was interesting to find that several of the caravan dwellers, especially childless couples in modern caravans, were remarkably comfortable and had little or no desire to live in a house. One wonders what might be the eventual reaction

of parents with small children, as I cannot imagine that a caravan, however modern, can provide a satisfactory home for a family with one or more children.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

Particulars will be found in the Medical Officer's report of the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. 66 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred, 18 rooms and 55 books being disinfected.

There was an increasing tendency during the year for infectious cases to be nursed at home, 13 out of 33 cases compared with only 3 out of 27 cases in 1951. Advice was given to the parents regarding the precautions to be taken and no secondary cases occurred as a result of imperfect isolation of patients at home.

During the year the Council's disinfecting station continued to be available for the disinfection of blankets, etc., used by the County Ambulance Service for the removal of infectious cases to hospital.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Disinfestation of two privately owned houses was supervised during the year.

There was again very little evidence of bedbug infestation of houses in the district; though a number of tenants experienced trouble from cockroaches and silverfish. The almost complete absence of bedbug infestation pays tribute to the cleanly habits of the vast majority of householders, and especially the housewives throughout the district.

D.D.T. powder, Gammexane dust, liquid disinfectant and D.D.T. fly solution continued to be available to householders free of charge.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board. Six samples of tap water were submitted for

bacteriological examination and all were found to be fit for drinking purposes.

PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD

During 1952, 281 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food and 337 to shops, stalls, etc. used for the sale of articles of food.

32 premises were used for the preparation of food, including 2 bakehouses and 10 fish frying establishments.

The year 1952 saw the continuance of the public awakening to the danger of food poisoning which can occur through uncleanly methods of food production and handling. The changing habits of the community towards communal feeding in restaurants, school feeding centres and works canteens have greatly increased the possibility of widespread illness. Once again, not a single case of food poisoning was reported but the possible danger has not been ignored. The maintenance of our record of freedom from food poisoning must be zealously preserved and no efforts must be spared to continually improve the standard of personal and kitchen hygiene in catering establishments.

The preparation of food in large quantities gives rise to certain difficulties and practices which tend to encourage bacterial multiplication. The practice of initial cooking of meat dishes, possibly on the previous day, slow cooking, storage at room temperature and inadequate reheating are potentially dangerous. In all cases where preparation takes place some time before the food is to be consumed, rapid cooling, refrigeration and adequate reheating should be carried out. One wonders whether the introduction of pressure cooking could, by the resultant saving in time, overcome the difficulty and allow food to be prepared immediately before it is to be served. I have no doubt that cooking just prior to consumption would do much to reduce the incidence of food poisoning.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKER'S YARD

There are five licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District and in all five cases licences were renewed for one year.

None is in use at the present time except for the private slaughter of pigs.

41 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's Yard.

The business was conducted in a satisfactory manner and records were kept as required by the Council's byelaws.

MEAT INSPECTION

The whole of the meat sold in the district is drawn from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in Chesterfield where a thorough system of meat inspection is in operation.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

At the end of 1952, 15 persons held licences to slaughter animals.

Four of the licences were granted during the year, all of them being renewals.

UN SOUND FOOD

The following amount of unsound food was found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Luncheon meat, steak	46 tins.
Cooked ham, veal etc.	158½lbs.
Sausages	50lbs.
Fish Products... ..	30 tins.
Kippers	14lbs.
Vegetables	41 tins.
Fruit	207 tins.
Tomatoes	274 tins.
Milk	23 tins.
Bacon	18lbs.
Cake	122lbs.
Sugar Confectionery	40lbs.
Cheese	10lbs.

All the above were voluntarily surrendered at the time of inspection.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

At the end of 1952, there were 18 dairy farmers in the

district, 12 being wholesale producers and 6 retailing their product locally. Of the 18 dairy farmers, 5 were producing Tuberculin Tested milk, two of them retailing their product locally.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 AND 1950.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 AND 1950.

The registrations and licences granted as at 31st December, 1952 were as follows:—

Registered distributors of milk	...	...	...	15
Licensed dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	...	10
Licensed dealers in Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	10
Licensed dealers in Sterilised milk	...	...	...	7

Supplementary licences to deal in Pasteurised milk and Tuberculin Tested milk were granted to a local Co-operative Society.

The steady decline in the number of dairy farmers and milk distributors continued during 1952. The remarkable change which has taken place may be judged from the fact that 20 years ago practically every dairy farmer retailed his milk locally; now only 6 farmers, one third of the total milk producers, retail milk locally and two of these farmers produce and retail tuberculin tested milk.

The vast majority of the families in this district now purchase pasteurised milk and the amount of raw milk consumed continues to decline.

During 1952 proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act of 1938 were successfully taken against a dairy company in respect of the supply of milk in a particularly dirty bottle.

The ultimate responsibility for the cleanliness of milk bottles must be borne by the dairy, but the general public could greatly assist by promptly returning empty bottles and ensuring that they are not used for other purposes. The very latest mechanical bottle washers are quite incapable of cleaning and sterilising some of the filthy bottles which have been lying about in houses and back yards for several weeks and even months.

MILK SAMPLING

Another feature of the last two decades has been the increased attention paid to the bacteriological examination of the milk supply. Twenty years ago no examinations were carried out, but now the supply from every farm, other than tuberculin tested milk producers, is tested quarterly and every effort is made to protect the public against milk borne infection.

59 samples were taken during the year, one revealed the presence of tuberculosis organisms, 58 being satisfactory.

The sample containing tubercle bacilli was obtained from a producer wholesaler whose milk normally undergoes pasteurisation. The Veterinary Officer was able, by clinical examination, to trace one cow in the herd suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, not advanced, and this animal was slaughtered. A further bulk sample taken from the remaining cows in the herd was found to be free from the organisms of tuberculosis.

ICE CREAM

There are three premises at which ice cream is manufactured and 20 premises from which ice cream is sold.

The improvement in recent years in the bacterial cleanliness of ice cream manufactured in this district continued throughout 1952, and for the first time every sample was reported as being in the satisfactory grades 1 and 2. This high standard must be zealously preserved.

The many modern detergents and sterilising agents now on the market greatly assist the ice cream producer in keeping his manufacturing plant in clean condition. For too long ice cream was too often the cause of food poisoning and other intestinal illness, but nowadays the manufacturer producing dirty ice cream is guilty of carelessness.

18 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	16
Grade 2	...	...	2
Grade 3	...	...	—
Grade 4	...	...	—

The results for individual manufacturers were as follows:—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
Manufacturer A.	4	1	—	—	5
Manufacturer B.	8	1	—	—	9
Manufacturer C.	4	—	—	—	4

SWIMMING BATHS

10 samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths in Castle Lane, Bolsover, samples being taken from the inlet and outlet ends of the bath.

The Bacteriologist reported on the samples that the filtration and chlorination process was highly satisfactory at the time when the samples were taken, as also was the hygienic quality of the water supplied to the swimming bath.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

73 visits were paid to premises regarding closing hours, sanitary conveniences and the employment of young persons.

PETROLEUM LICENSING.

33 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit.

At the end of 1952, 21 licences were in force.

RODENT CONTROL

During 1952 the Clerk in the Public Health Department attended an approved course of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and thereafter it was possible to pay much greater attention to rodent control. A systematic survey of the whole of the district was commenced and by the end of the year 1,027 properties had been inspected and 52 infested properties had been treated.

A feature of the year was the use of the new rodenticide—Warfarin, and its advantage over previous control measures was quickly appreciated. Warfarin causes no “bait shyness” or “poison prejudice” and continuous protection against re-infestation is now possible. Permanent baiting points were

established at refuse tips, sewage works and other centres of infestation and this system of control proved highly successful.

Treatment of the public sewers was carried out on two occasions. In all cases methods of treatment were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and no legal proceedings were taken under the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act of 1949.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS AND PRIVIES

In last year's report I outlined the improvements carried out in 1951 to the sewage disposal works at Whaley Common and the subsequent provision of water closets at 23 houses draining to those works.

During 1952, the scheme for Whaley Village was completed, providing 270 yards of 6 inch sewer and a new disposal works comprising inlet chamber, septic tank, filter with automatic tipping gear, small humus tank and effluent drain to the adjacent stream. The new sewer was laid to serve 12 houses, all previously draining to cesspools, 4 of them having water closets, 7 pail closets and 1 privy midden. With the completion of the scheme the 7 pail closets and the privy, midden were replaced by water closets and the old and troublesome cesspools were no longer used.

The provision of modern sanitation to these outlying parts of the district has been much appreciated by the occupants of the houses. The conversions were carried out at the joint expense of the owners and the Council.

Five rather more remote houses at Whaley Village could not be served by the scheme but the owners of the houses have undertaken to install, as far as possible, septic tanks and modern appliances, though no progress in this connection was made during 1952.

In April 1952, I submitted a report to the Council on the drainage and sanitary arrangements at 30 houses in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, which, due to the contours of the ground, cannot be connected to the existing sewer serving the other houses in the road. In eight cases, the houses have water closets draining to cesspools or septic tanks and filter and these arrangements are reasonably satisfactory. The remaining 22 houses are provided with pail closets, and the arrangements for disposal of waste water in most cases are unsatisfac-

tory; 14 of the houses being drained to an obsolete settlement tank and filter.

It is felt that the provision of a new sewer and small disposal works, or pumping station to the existing sewer, to cater for most, if not all, of the houses would allow considerable improvement in the drainage arrangements in this part of the district.

The suggestions embodied in the report were accepted in principle by the Council and the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a more detailed engineering report.

A pail closet at No. 2 Castle Lane was replaced by a water closet early in 1932, the house being completely repaired and modernised following action under Section 11 of the Housing Act of 1936. The Council contributed 50% of the cost of the conversion.

The majority of the remaining houses in the district not served by public sewers are isolated cottages, farms, etc., often situated in most inaccessible and widely scattered positions.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The manufacture of smokeless coal by the low temperature carbonisation process is extensively undertaken in this district, but the process is not so smokeless as one would desire.

The Council support the aims of the National Smoke Abatement Society and it is pleasing to report that during 1952 a member of this Authority, Councillor S. Jennings, was elected Chairman of the East Midlands Division of the Society.

The importance of atmospheric pollution was dramatically demonstrated to the people of this country during December, 1952. 4,600 additional deaths occurred in the London area following 4 days of dense fog, animals exhibited at the Smithfield Show died or were slaughtered on veterinary advice, and colossal dislocation and economic upset resulted. One wonders whether the seriousness of this disaster was fully appreciated for one of the most sinister features of smoke fog is the very way in which it induces an attitude of apathetic acceptance.

There is an urgent need of a national enquiry into the

causes and effects of atmospheric pollution. We in this country, are notorious for the wasteful manner in which we burn our coal and we in colliery districts who are aware of the toil and sweat expended in the mining of this, our most valuable raw material, are most concerned that it should be utilised so inefficiently.

During 1952 public attention was repeatedly drawn to the effects of air pollution on the lungs and the ever increasing number of deaths from lung cancer. Are the people of this country content to remain indifferent, allowing their health to be impaired by the fumes and smoke they themselves emit into the air they breathe.

Great strides have been made in the last century in ensuring the purity and safety of water and food supplies, surely the time has now arrived when greater attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the air we breathe into our bodies, every year, every day, every minute of our lives.

When the evil of atmospheric pollution is overcome, future generations will be amazed that their forebears were content to live in a country where nearly 2½ million tons of dirt and soot were discharged yearly into the atmosphere, to be inhaled into our lungs, to ruin our architecture and to make greatly increased labour.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE

LABOUR AND TRANSPORT

10 men were employed on refuse collection and disposal, emptying pail closets, privies and cesspools and on collection and baling of waste paper.

The vehicles used comprised:—

- 1 12 cubic yard Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.
- 1 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam.
- 1 Fordson tractor fitted with earthmover blade for tip levelling and soil spreading.
- 3 inch mud pump for cesspool emptying.

The Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter was employed full time on refuse collection duties, the Karrier Bantam being employed part time on refuse collection and also undertaking emptying of pail closets, privies and cesspools.

I should like, again, to pay tribute to the loyalty and co-operation of the public cleansing staff. The men perform a public health duty of the first importance, for which they receive little recognition and only low financial reward.

Refuse Collection.

The service operated smoothly and efficiently throughout the whole year and a weekly collection was maintained.

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse collected was disposed of by controlled tipping at the following tips:—

New Byron Brick Works.	Limekiln Fields.
New Bolsover.	

Most of the refuse collected has been disposed of at the Limekiln Fields tip and this tip is approaching completion.

During the year the tractor fitted with an earthmover blade was used for levelling and spreading soil on the completed portion of the Limekiln Fields tip.

SALVAGE

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1953).

The waste paper market remained in a rather unsettled position throughout the year, prices continued to fall, stocks accumulated at board mills and local authorities were asked to restrict the quantity of paper despatched to the mills.

Waste paper collection continued and almost 79 tons were sold, this being slightly less than last year's total, but the profit from paper salvage was much lower, being almost £200, or the equivalent of a 1d rate product.

The workmen's bonus scheme remained in operation but was modified slightly from the 1st October, 1952 following the reduction in selling price; the amount earned by the men during the financial year was £69-15-10.

Segregation of tins at one of the tips was continued during the year, an allowance of 30/- per ton being paid by the Joint Scrap Survey District Committee.

Salvage from 1st April, 1952 to 31st March, 1953.

	T	C	Q	L	£	s.	d.
Waste paper & cardboard	78	16	2	3	687	18	6
Textiles 		18	2	0	18	10	0
Scrap metals 	8	19	1	0	15	14	4
	88	14	1	3	722	2	10

